

House Bill 1376

By: Representatives Marin of the 96th and Ehrhart of the 36th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Chapter 19 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to control of rabies, so as to change certain provisions relating to inoculation of canines and felines against rabies; to provide for inoculation of other domesticated animals; to change certain provisions relating to county rabies control officers; to provide for collection and disposition of fees; to provide for rabies inoculation tags and certificates; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Chapter 19 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to control of rabies, is amended by striking Code Section 31-19-5, relating to inoculation of canines and felines against rabies, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"31-19-5.

The county boards of health are empowered and required to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations requiring ~~canines and felines~~ canines, felines, and any other domesticated animals that are potential rabies carriers and for which an approved antirabies vaccine is available to be inoculated against rabies and to prescribe the intervals and means of inoculation, ~~the fees to be paid in county sponsored clinics, that fees be paid in accordance with this chapter, that tags and certificates be issued by a licensed veterinarian as proof of inoculation,~~ that procedures be in compliance with the recommendations of the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians for identifying ~~inoculated canines and felines~~ canines, felines, and other domesticated animals that have been inoculated as required, and all other procedures applicable thereto. As used in this chapter, the term 'inoculation against rabies' means the administering by a licensed veterinarian of antirabies vaccine approved by the department."

SECTION 2.

Said chapter is further amended by striking Code Section 31-19-7, relating to county rabies control officers, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"31-19-7.

(a) The county board of health shall appoint a person who is knowledgeable of animals to be the county rabies control officer. It shall be the duty of the county rabies control officer to enforce this chapter and other laws which regulate the activities of ~~dogs~~ canines, felines, and other domesticated animals that are required to be inoculated against rabies pursuant to Code Section 31-19-5.

(b)(1) The county governing authority of each county is authorized to levy a fee not to exceed ~~50¢~~ \$5.00 for each ~~dog~~ animal that is required to be inoculated against rabies, such fee to be collected by the veterinarian administering the antirabies vaccine required by this chapter and transmitted to the county treasurer, less an administrative fee of 50¢ to be retained by the veterinarian. This fee shall be in addition to that provided for in Code Section 31-19-5.

(2) If any county has no resident veterinarian, the out-of-county veterinarian administering the antirabies vaccine and collecting the fee provided for by this Code section shall forward to the treasurer of the county of the ~~dog~~ animal owner's residence the fee prescribed by that county's governing authority, less the veterinarian's 50¢ administrative fee.

(c)(1) The county treasurer shall transmit the funds received under this Code section to the department for deposit in the general fund of the state treasury, less a 75¢ fee to be retained by the county treasurer.

(2) The fees collected retained by the county treasurer under this Code section shall be used to help in paying the salary of the county rabies control officer.

(d) Any veterinarian administering rabies vaccine shall provide the owner of an inoculated animal with a tag to be worn by the animal and a certificate as proof of inoculation against rabies. The veterinarian shall transmit copies of the rabies inoculation certificate to the rabies control officer of the county of the animal owner's residence and to the department."

SECTION 3.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.